WE COULD NEVER BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH EACH OTHER...

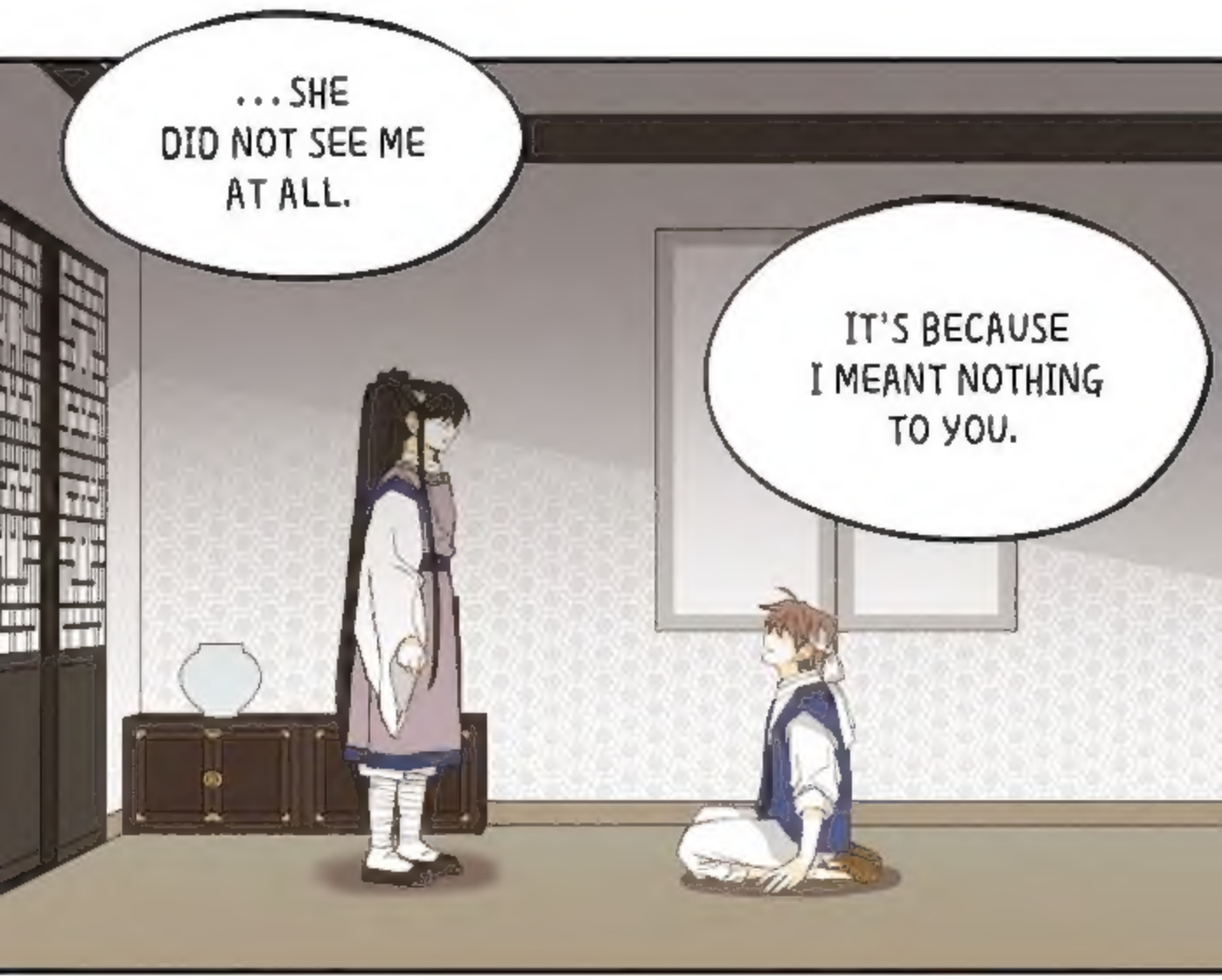
...OR COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

HOW COULD WE...

...BE FRIENDS?

I KNEW YOU DIDN'T THINK OF ME AS AN EQUAL...
...BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D SAY WE WERE NEVER EVEN FRIENDS.

SO THAT'S WHY.
WHEN THE SOUTHERN DRAGON KING WENT THROUGH YOUR MEMORIES...

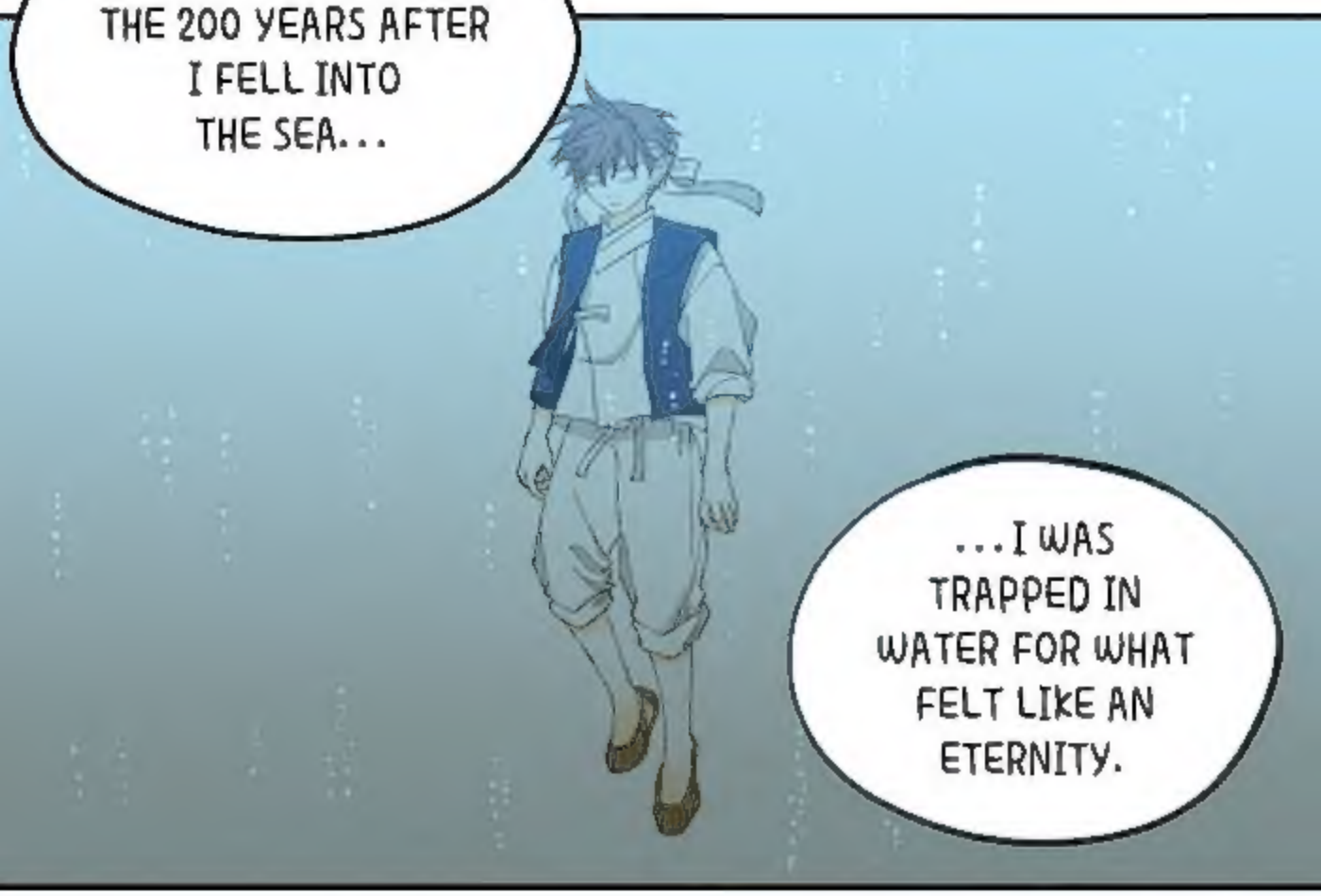

...SHE DID NOT SEE ME AT ALL.
IT'S BECAUSE I MEANT NOTHING TO YOU.

JUST...

JUST
LET ME DIE.
I'VE BEEN
GOING THROUGH
THE SAME PUNISHMENT
AS YOU FOR ALL
THIS TIME...

PUNISHMENT...?
THERE'S
NO WAY IT
COULD ATONE FOR
WHAT I DID...

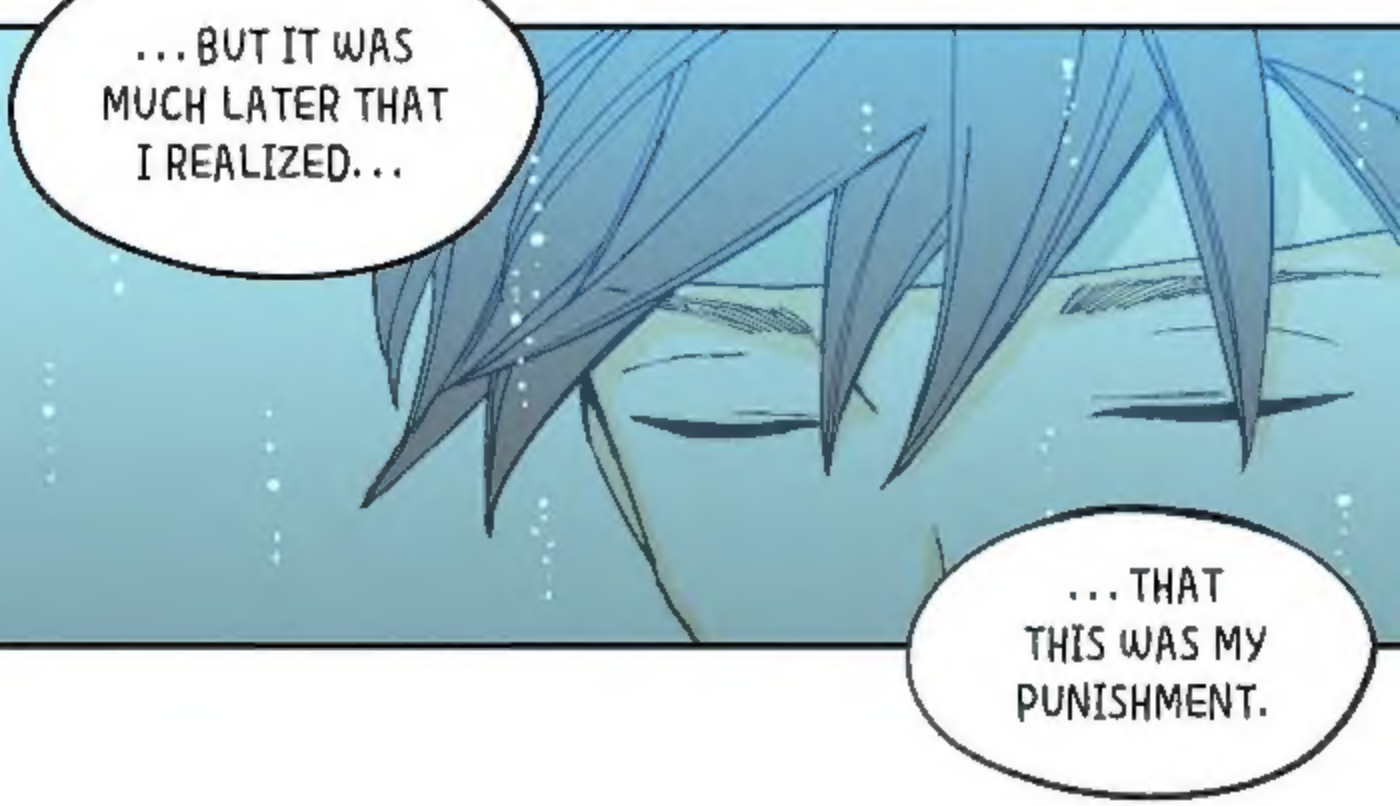
...BUT FOR THE 200 YEARS AFTER I FELL INTO THE SEA...



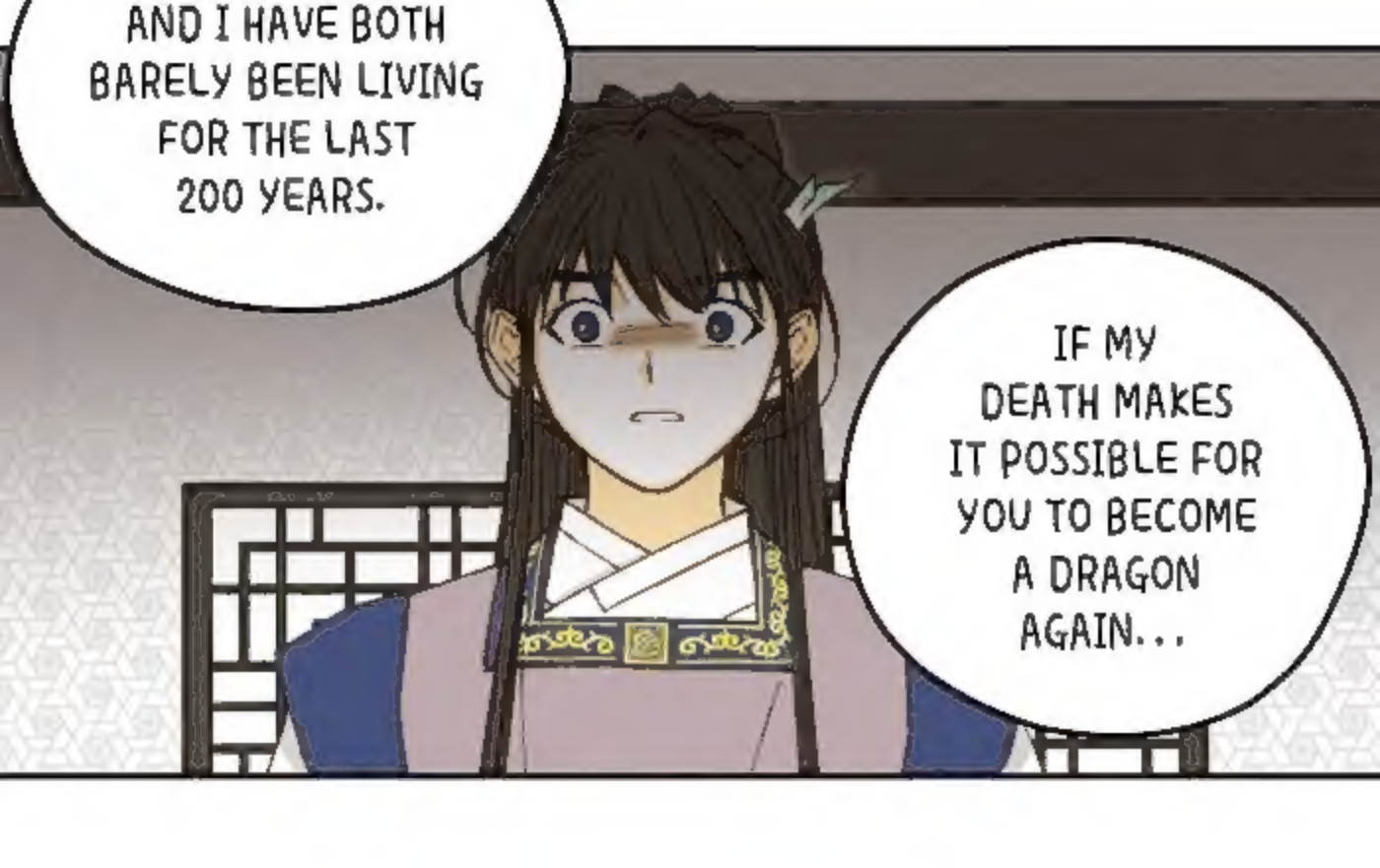
...I WAS TRAPPED IN WATER FOR WHAT FELT LIKE AN ETERNITY.

MY BODY

BUT MY MIND WAS WIDE AWAKE.
I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE BETTER OFF DEAD...


...BUT IT WAS MUCH LATER THAT I REALIZED...
...THAT THIS WAS MY PUNISHMENT.

THIS WAS MY PUNISHMENT FOR HOLDING YOU DOWN TO THE EARTH AS YOU TRIED TO FLY...
...AND CRUSHING YOUR HOPES AND GOALS.


AND I HAVE BOTH BARELY BEEN LIVING FOR THE LAST 200 YEARS.
IF MY DEATH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BECOME A DRAGON AGAIN...

...THEN WHAT MORE FITTING PUNISHMENT...
...WOULD THERE BE?

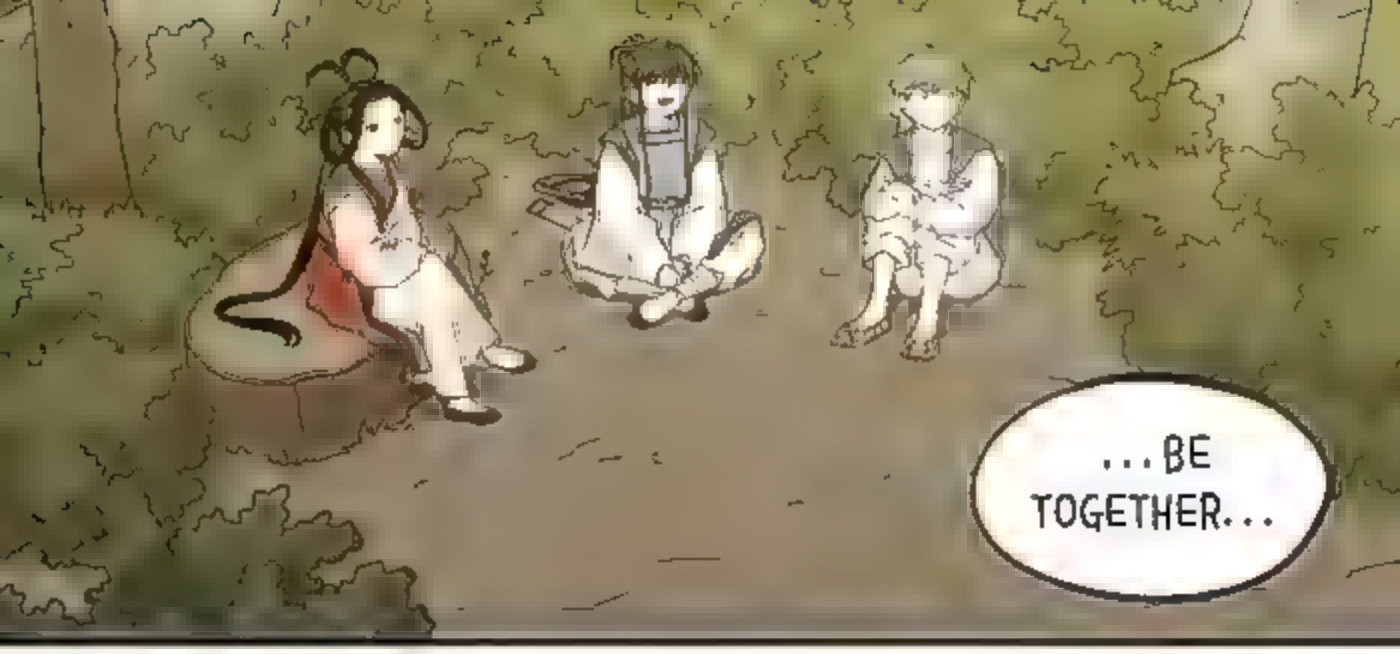
PUNISHMENT

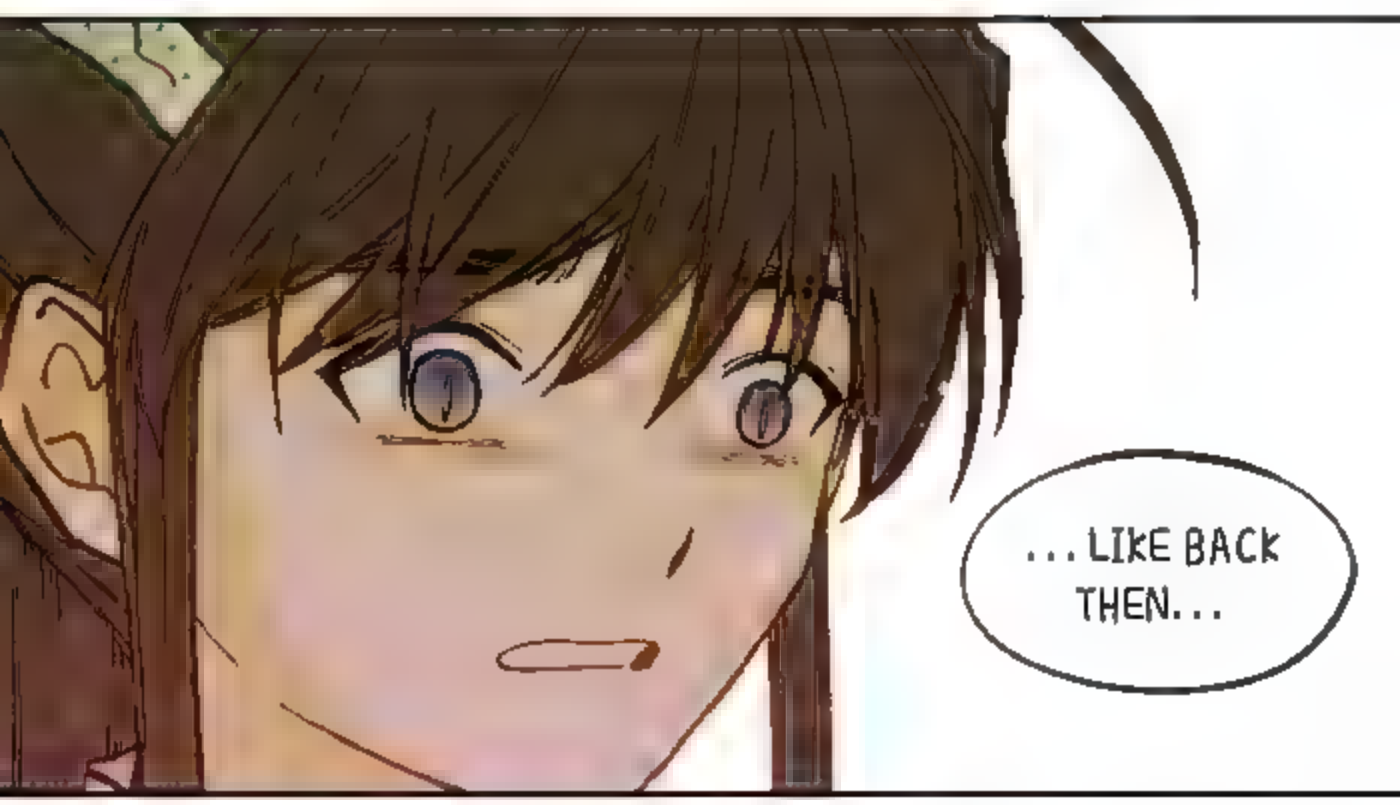
AND ATONEMENT... IS THAT THE ONLY WAY YOU WANT TO END THINGS?
WHAT ABOUT APOLOGIES, FORGIVENESS, RECONCILIATION...?
WHY WON'T YOU THINK OF THINGS LIKE THAT?

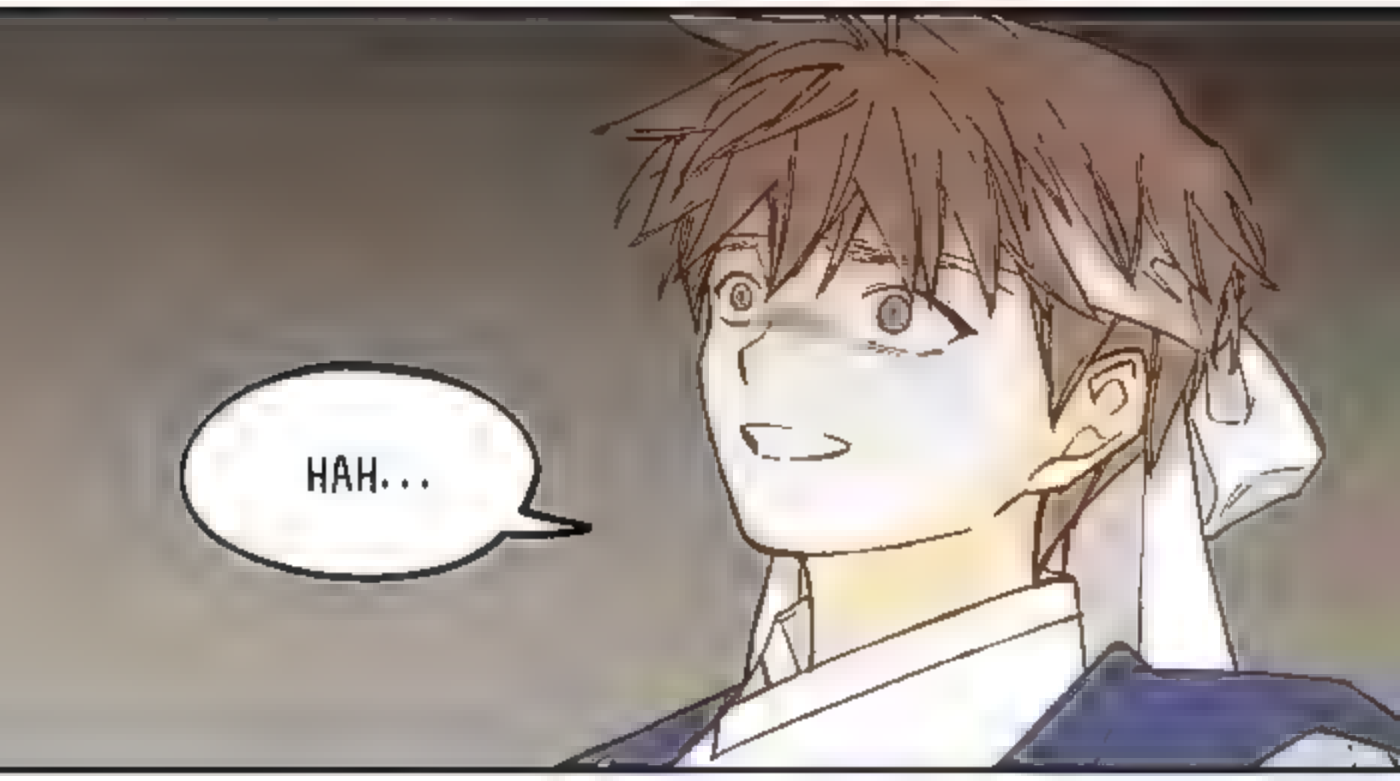
FORGIVENESS...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BARI?

IF YOU APOLOGIZE SINCERELY AND REGRET WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
IF YOU ASK ME FOR FORGIVENESS...

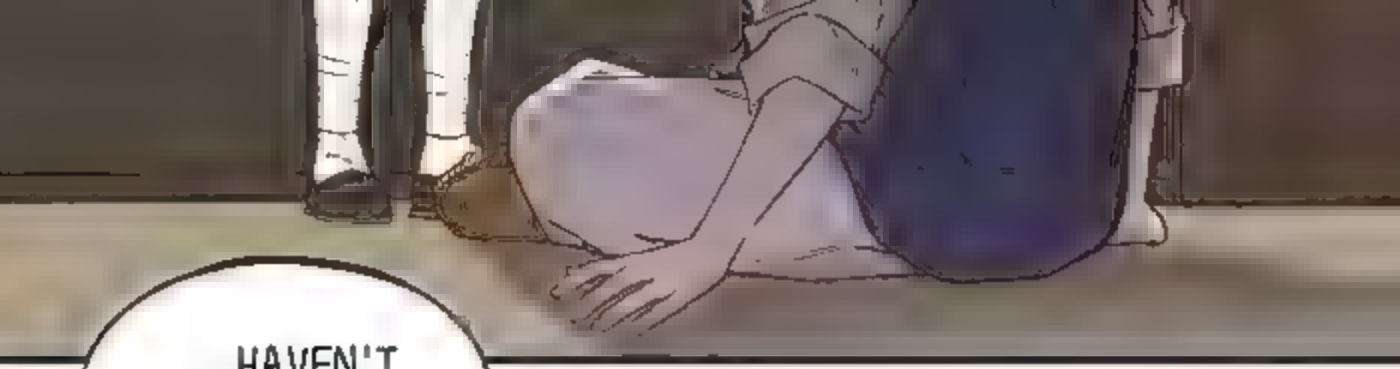
...YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE TRAPPED OR LIVE A LIFE WHERE YOU'RE BARELY ALIVE.
WE CAN LEAVE THE SOUTHERN SEA THAT GAVE US SO MUCH PAIN...
...AND KEEP THE PROMISES WE MADE BEFORE...
WE CAN ALL...


...BE TOGETHER...


...LIKE BACK THEN...


HAH...

BARI...
YOU REALLY...


...HAVEN'T CHANGED.

THAT'S WHY...

...I COULD NEVER...
...THINK OF YOU AS A FRIEND...

How to become a dragon

- Episode 172 -

LO...
HELLO!
ARE YOU AWAKE?
BLINK
OPEN YOUR EYES!

UISEON...?
HOW DID YOU GET HERE...?
JUST LOOK AT YOU...

HOW COULD THEY TORTURE YOU SO TERRIBLY?
STILL... I THINK YOU WILL MAKE IT OUT ALIVE.
THEY SAID THEY WOULD NOT EXECUTE ANYONE UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE...
E...
EXECUTE...?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY I WAS BROUGHT HERE. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
W-WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS...?
...
I HEARD THAT OUR TUTOR WAS TAKEN AWAY AS WELL. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

ABOUT HIM...
HE COULD NOT ENDURE THE TORTURE...
...!
WHAT... WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING?
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

WHAT CRIME AM I ACCUSED OF TO BE TREATED THIS WAY...?
...
TREASON.
!!
T-TREASON?!

PURE NONSENSE...
OUR TUTOR IS A COURT SCHOLAR, AND MY FAMILY SERVES THE KING. HOW WOULD WE DARE DO SUCH A THING?
WHO... WHO TURNED US IN?
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER NOW?
THE SENTENCE HAS ALREADY BEEN SET.

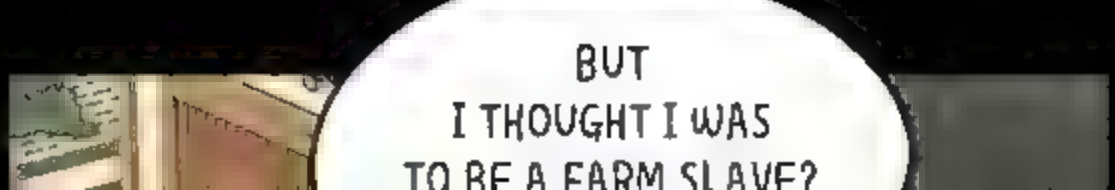
YOUR FATHER WILL BE EXILED TOMORROW.

YOUR SERVANTS WERE ALL SOLD OFF AS SLAVES...

...BUT AS LONG AS YOU STAY ALIVE, I'M SURE

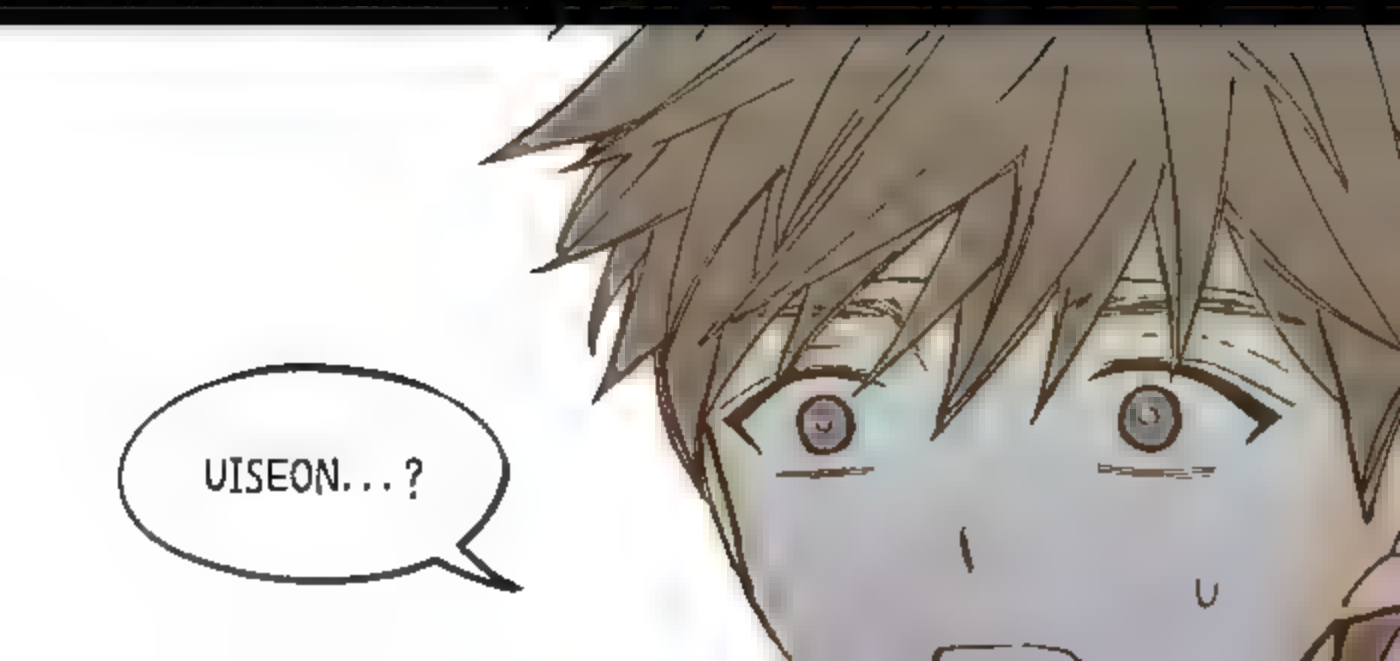
SECURE A FUTURE FOR YOURSELF.

STAY STRONG.



THIS PLACE IS...
YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TO SAY. THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE PUT IN A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR YOU.
LIFE WILL BE BETTER FOR YOU AS A SERVANT IN THIS MANOR THAN AS A FARM SLAVE.

THE HOUSE ITSELF WAS BUILT RECENTLY, SO THERE WILL BE MUCH FOR YOU TO DO.
GET READY QUICKLY!
AH...
FREEZE


UISEON...?

HOW DARE YOU!
SLAP
HOW DARE YOU CALL THE YOUNG MASTER BY HIS NAME?

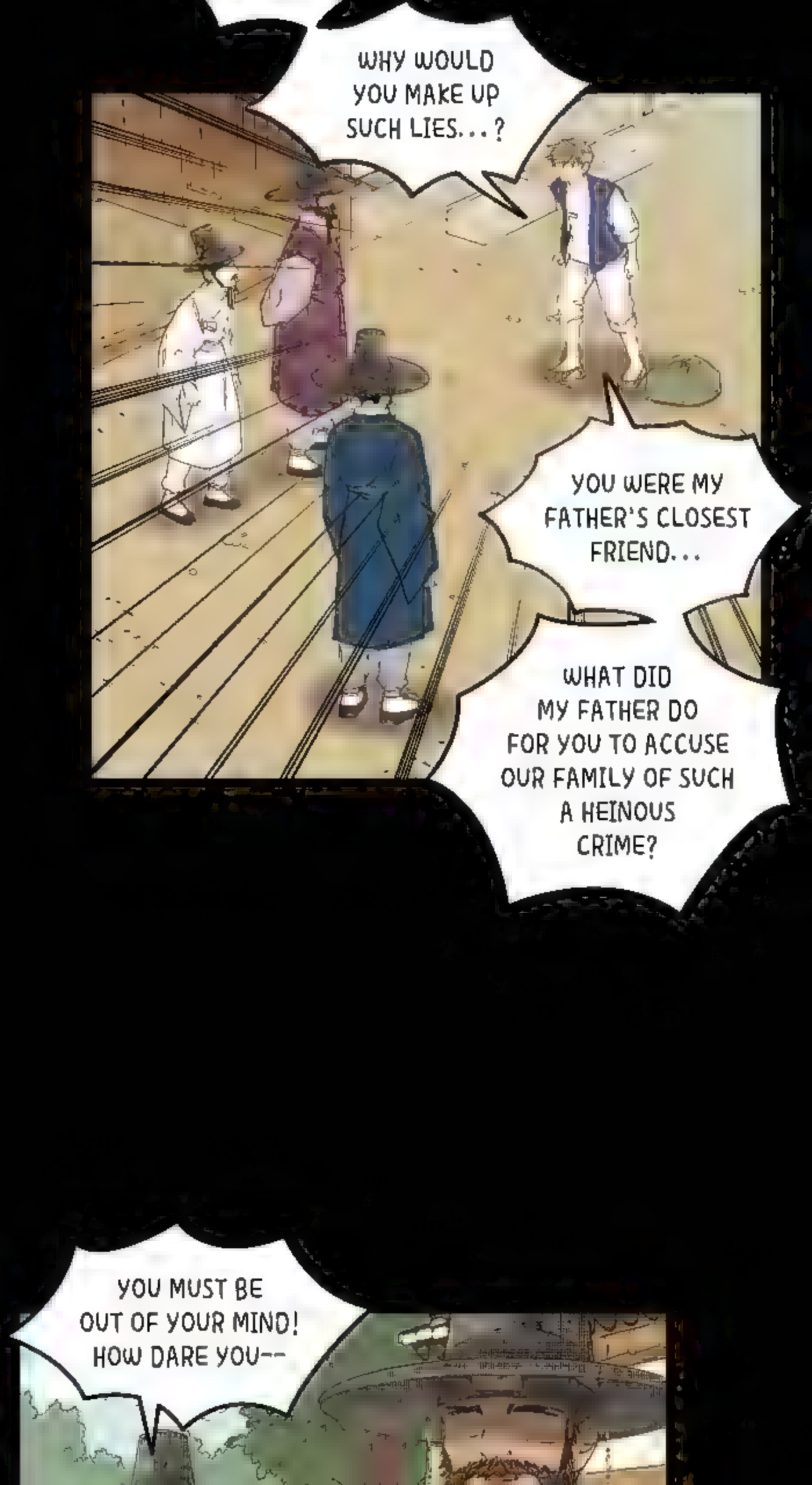
MY APOLOGIES, SIR.
THIS BOY IS NEW...
BOW
BOW
...
AH... NOT A PROBLEM.
I WILL BE SURE TO EDUCATE HIM PROPERLY.
WHAT IS ALL THIS COMMOTION?

AH! MASTER, YOU'RE HOME.
FATHER...

LORD
COUNCILOR...

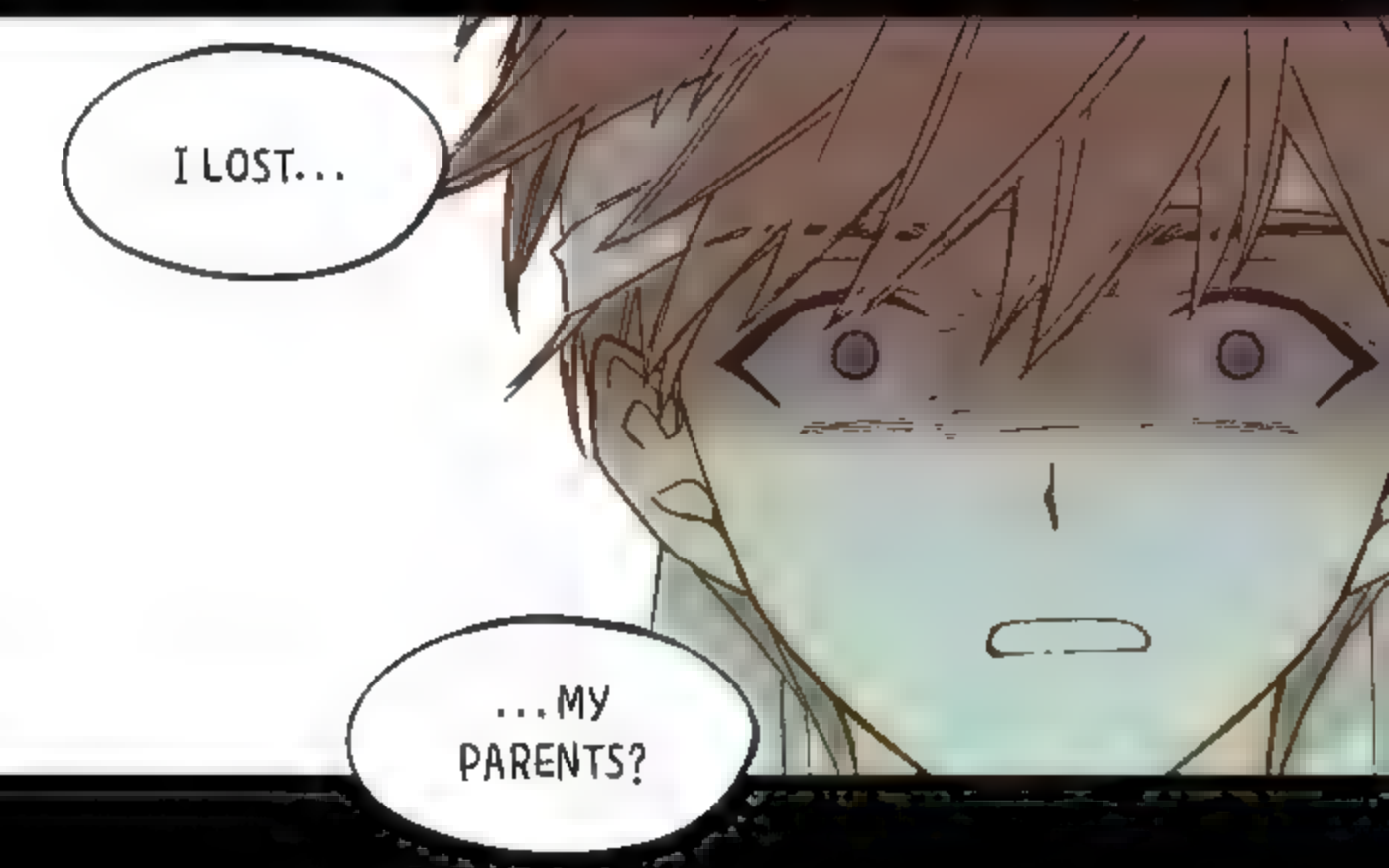
WHAT OLD NEWS!
HE IS THE LORD COMMISSIONER NOW!
HE PLAYED THE LARGEST ROLE IN CATCHING THE RECENT BAND OF TRAITORS!
YOU BROUGHT THE RIGHT BOY. GOOD WORK.

AH,
BUT OF COURSE,
MY LORD!
YOU
CAUGHT THE
TRAITORS...?
THEN...
ARE YOU THE ONE
WHO ACCUSED
ME, SIR?
WHY...?


WHY WOULD YOU MAKE UP SUCH LIES...?
YOU WERE MY FATHER'S CLOSEST FRIEND...
WHAT DID MY FATHER DO FOR YOU TO ACCUSE OUR FAMILY OF SUCH A HEINOUS CRIME?
YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND! HOW DARE YOU--

QUIET.
IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF MY OLD FRIENDSHIP WITH YOUR FATHER THAT I BROUGHT YOU, HIS LAST REMAINING FAMILY, INTO MY HOME.
IT WOULD SERVE YOU WELL TO REMEMBER YOUR PLACE FROM NOW ON.
I WILL FORGIVE TODAY'S OUTBURST JUST THIS ONCE, SINCE YOU HAVE

LOST YOUR TITLE AND PARENTS ALL AT ONCE.

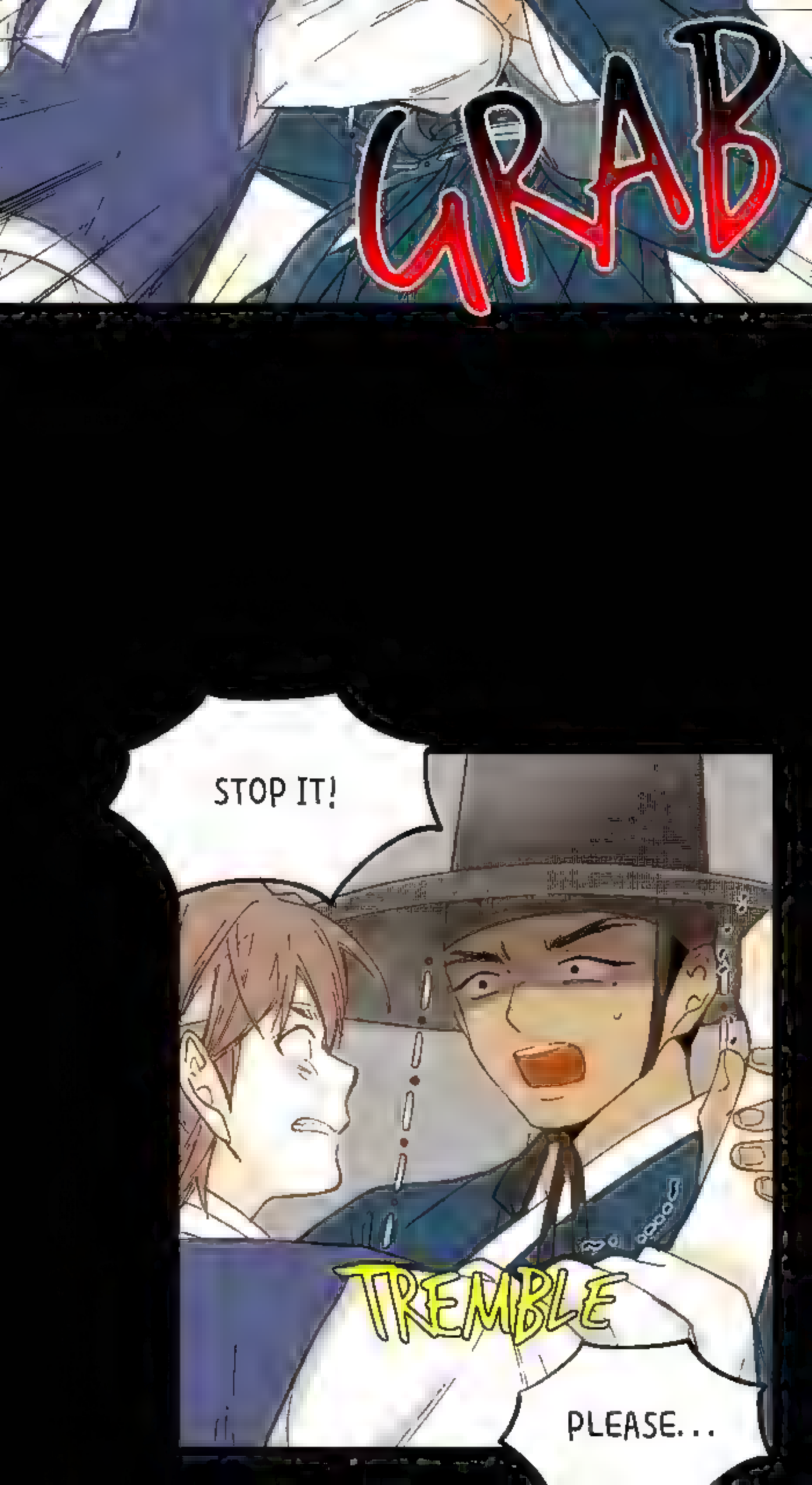


YOUR FATHER DIED ON HIS WAY TO EXILE...

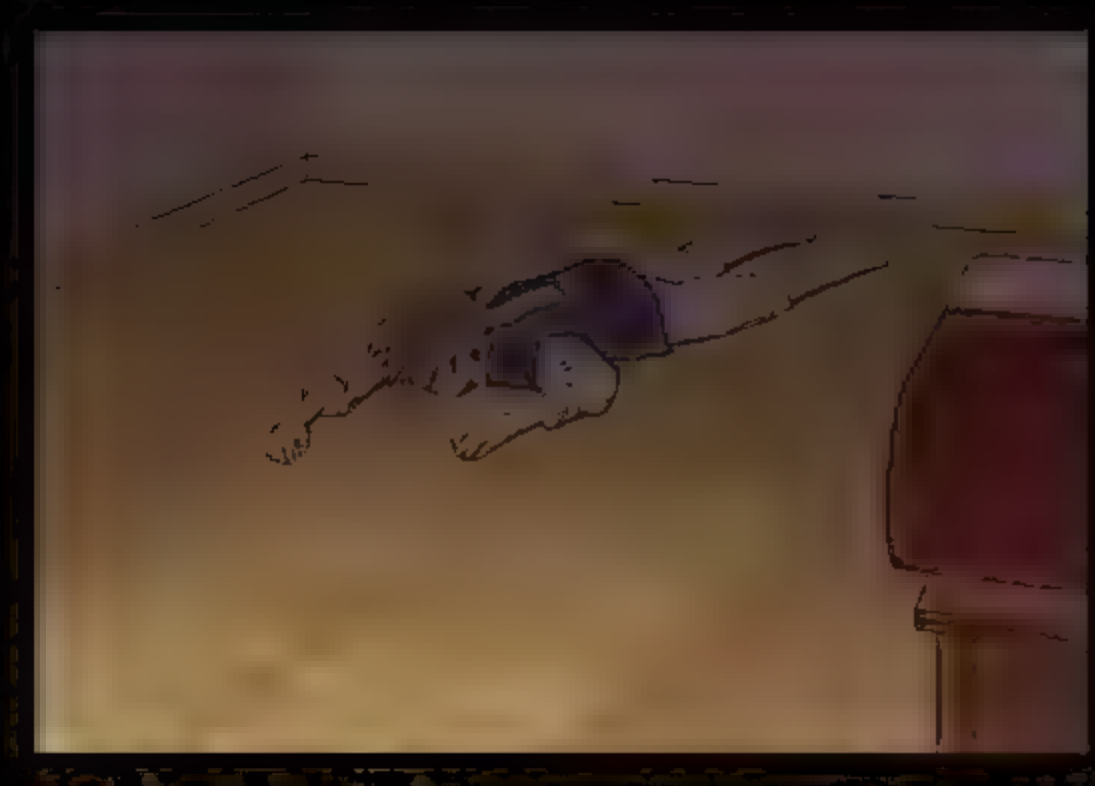
...AND YOUR

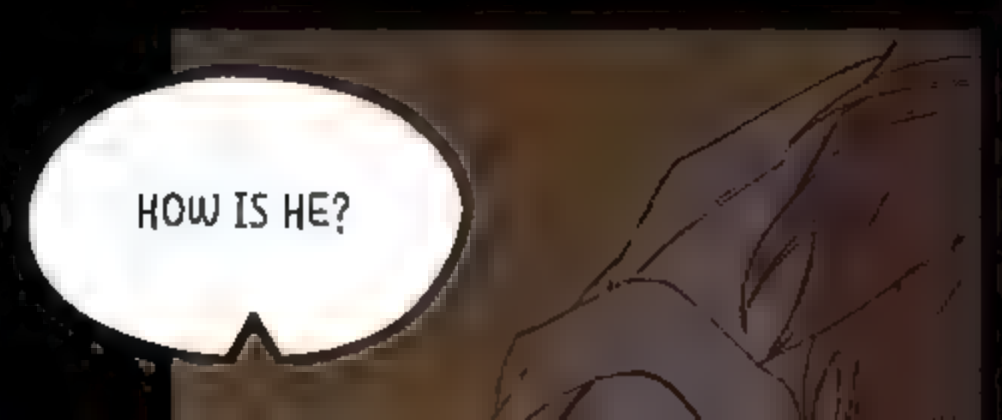
MOTHER HUNG HERSELF THE DAY SHE WAS TO BE SENT TO THE SLAVE MARKET.
AH...

AAAAH!
DASH


GRAB
STOP IT!
TREMBLE
PLEASE...

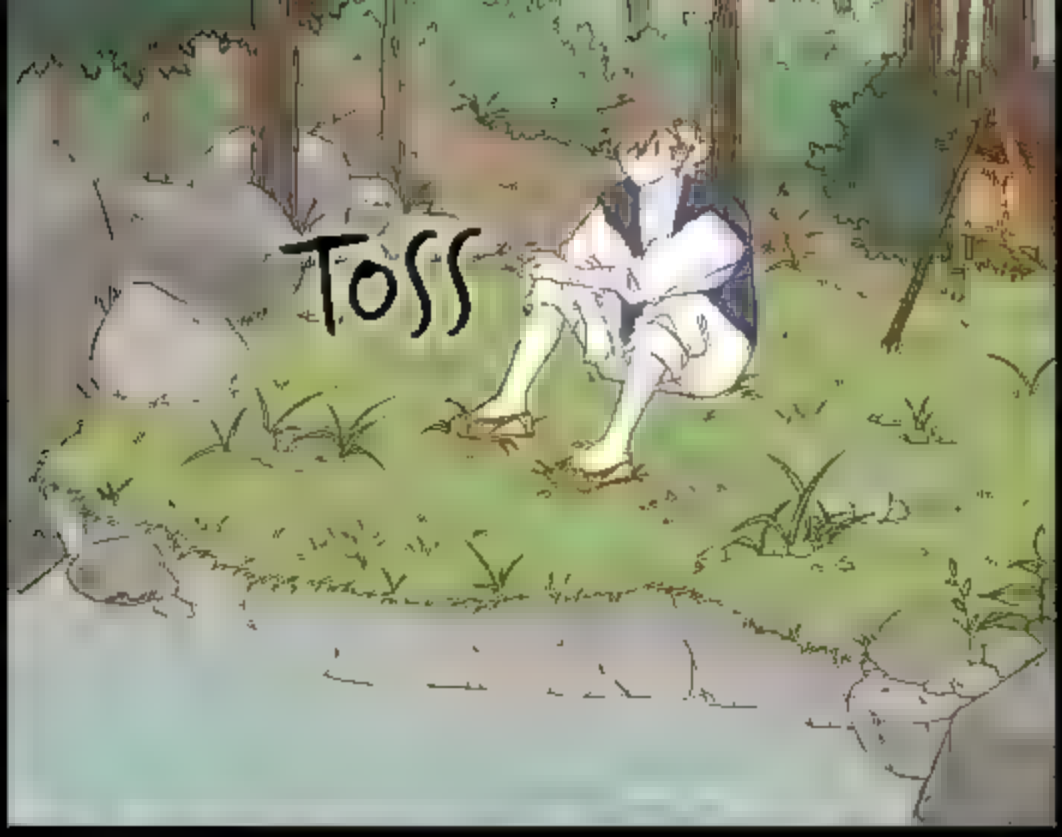
I SAID I WOULD FORGIVE YOU JUST THIS ONCE.
BEAT THE BOY UNTIL HE REALIZES HIS PLACE.




HOW IS HE?

FLINCH
THANKFULLY, IT SEEMS HIS BONES ARE NOT BROKEN.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
USE THIS TO GET HIM SOME MEDICINE, TOO...
MY GOODNESS, YOU TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF A MERE SERVANT BOY.

HE USED TO BE A SCHOLAR WHO ONLY READ BOOKS ALL DAY, SO DO NOT GIVE HIM ANY HARD LABOR...
NO, SEND HIM INTO THE MOUNTAINS OR THE FIELDS SO HE IS OUT OF MY FATHER'S SIGHT.
...
YES, YOUNG MASTER. I'LL SEND HIM OUT TO GATHER FIREWOOD.

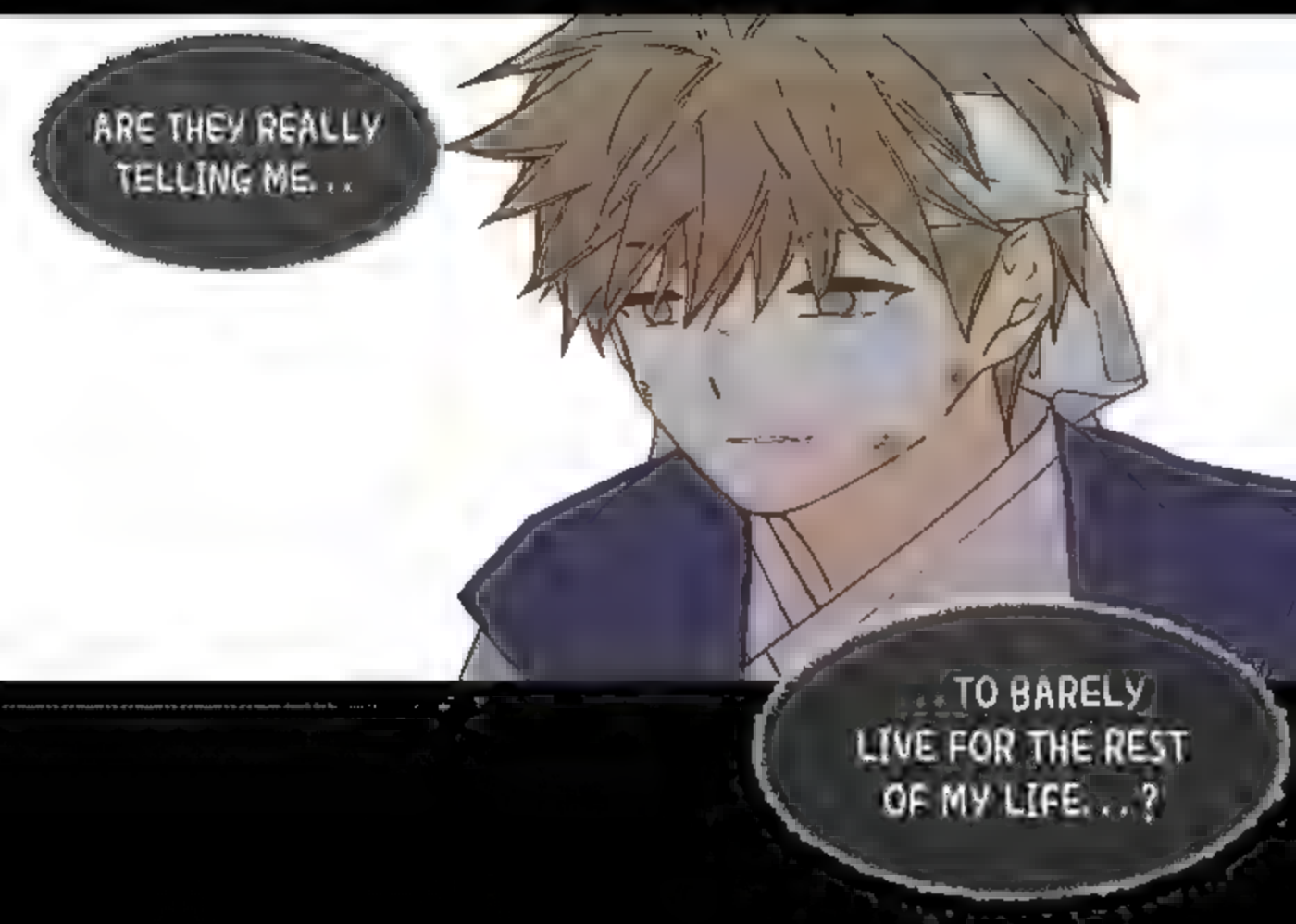


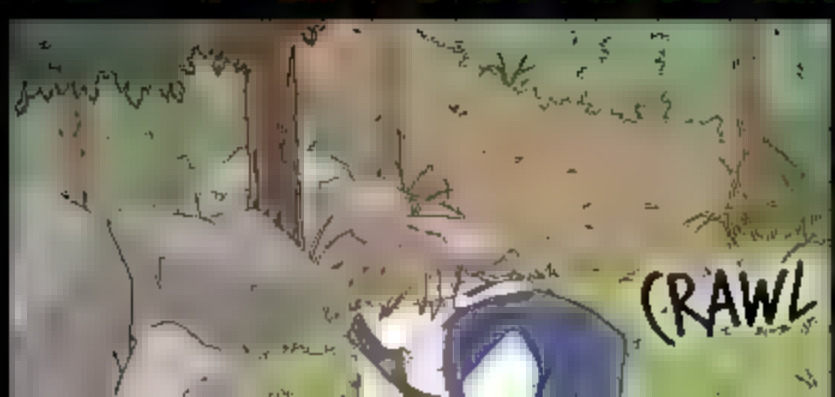
I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.

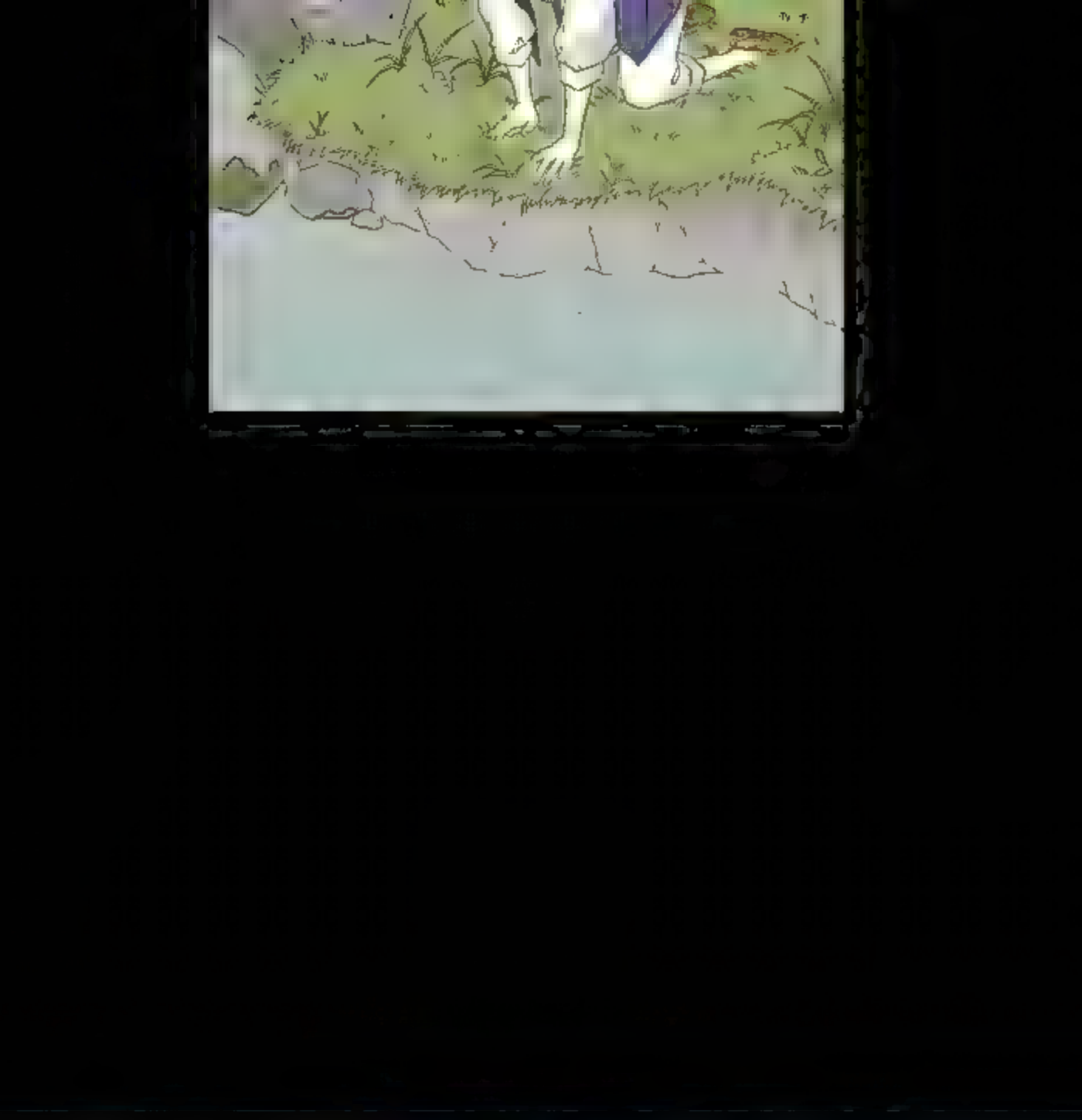
PLOP

PLOP

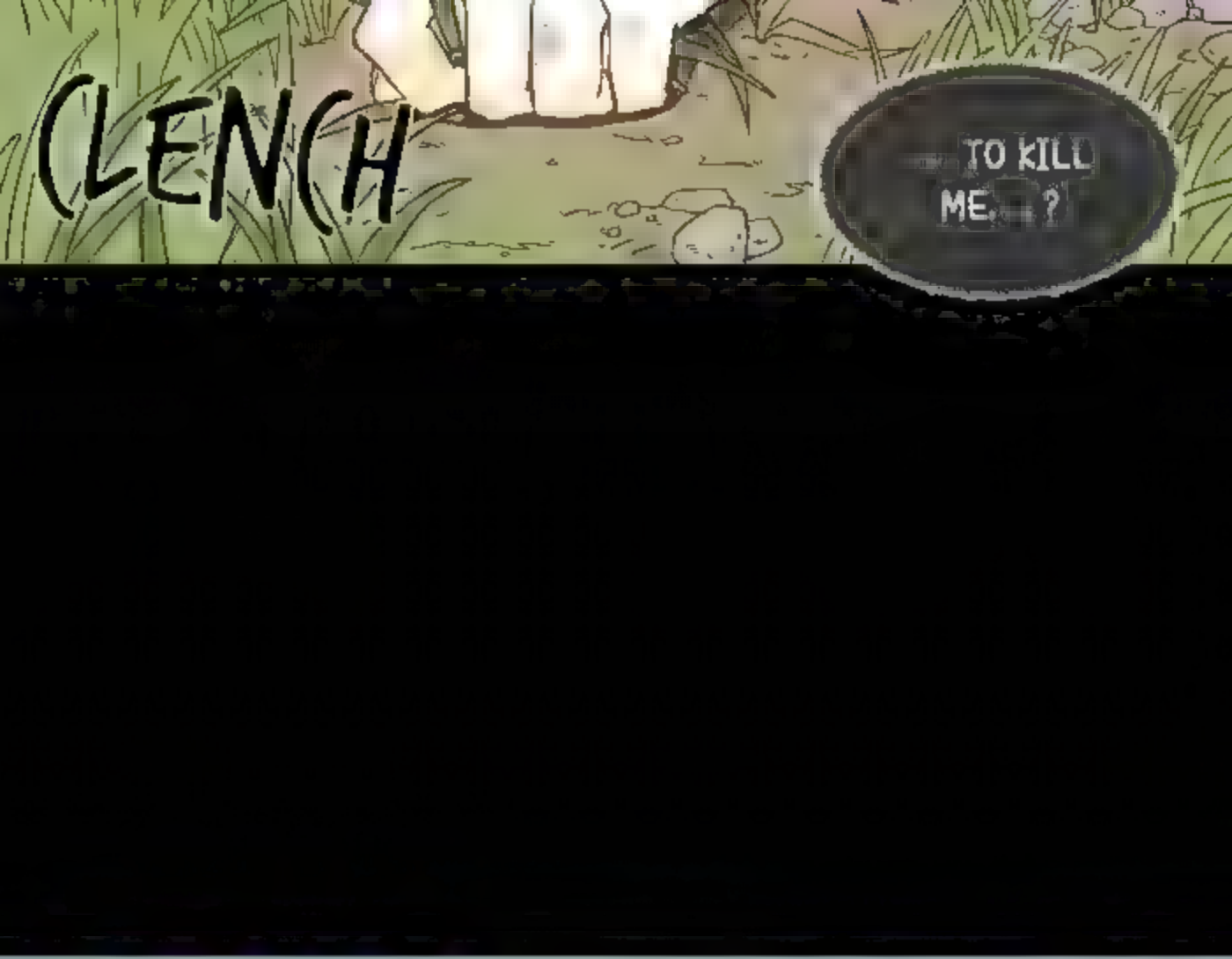
EXCEPT BRING HOME A FEW PIECES OF FIREWOOD SO IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN WORKING.


ARE THEY REALLY TELLING ME...
...TO BARELY LIVE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...?


CRAWL



I WONDER.
IF THIS WATER WILL FULLY COVER ME.
IS IT DEEP ENOUGH.


CLENCH
TO KILL ME...?

RIPPLE
!

SPLASH

UH...
HUH...?

DID THAT SCARE YOU?
SORRY.

Story/Art eon
Assistance stinis
HD
Gwang-gyu